

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A paper feeding apparatus, comprising:

a paper feed device comprising:

a paper loading board to load paper obliquely;

an abutting surface arranged in a lower part of the paper loading board,

the abutting surface abuts a leading edge of the paper loaded on the paper loading board;

a feed roller abuts a surface of the paper to feed the paper to a

predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and

a manual feed tray movable between an open position and a closed

position;

a stopper movable between a lower position lower than the abutting surface

and a higher position higher than the abutting surface; and

a stopper drive device which moves the stopper between the lower position

and the higher position,

wherein the stopper contacts the leading edge of the paper and lifts up the leading edge of the paper as the stopper is moved toward the higher position, and

wherein the stopper drive device moves the stopper toward the lower position in response to the manual feed tray being at or moving to the open position.

2. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the stopper drive device comprises a linking mechanism arranged between the manual feed tray and the stopper to move the stopper toward the lower position as the manual feed tray is moved to the open position.

3. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 2,  
wherein the stopper drive device further comprises:

a rotational shaft facing the stopper as the linking mechanism;  
a cam fixed on the rotational shaft; and  
a projection portion fixed on one axial end of the rotational shaft; and

wherein the stopper comprises:

a stopper body ~~abuts~~ body that abuts the leading edge of the paper  
loaded on the paper loading board; and  
an abutting ~~unit extends~~ unit that extends from the stopper body and  
abuts the cam to provide vertical movement to the stopper body depending on a position of  
the cam;

wherein the manual feed tray pushes the projection portion when in the open  
position for ~~ain~~s insertion of the paper,paper insertion, and

wherein the cam moves to another position to lower the stopper body when the  
projection portion is pushed.

4. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 3,  
further comprising:

a change detection device to detect a change in the open/closed position of the  
manual feed tray; and

a control device operably connected to the stopper drive device to permit the  
stopper drive device to raise the stopper when the change detection device detects that ~~the~~  
~~state-a state~~ of the manual feed tray has changed from the open position to the closed position.

5. (Currently Amended) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a change detection device to detect a change in the open/closed position of the manual feed tray; and

a control device operably connected to the stopper drive device to permit the stopper drive device to lower the stopper when detecting that ~~the~~ state of the manual feed tray has changed from the closed position to the open position to permit ~~the~~ paper insertion.

6. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the control device permits the stopper drive device to raise the stopper when the change detection device detects that the state of the manual feed tray has changed from the open position to the closed position.

7. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 4, the stopper drive device further comprising:

a first gear arranged on one axial end of the rotational shaft to rotate with the rotational shaft;

a second gear geared with the first gear; and

a rotational force transmission device to transmit rotational force given from a driving source to the second gear;

wherein the control device drives the driving source so that the cam moves to a position to lower the stopper body when the manual feed tray is in the open position to permit paper insertion, and to another position to raise the stopper body when the manual feed tray is not in the open position.

8. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the second gear comprises a rotation limit device which does not transmit a rotational

force to the first gear in a descendent direction of the stopper after the stopper is in the lower position.

9. (Previously Presented) An image formation apparatus, comprising:
  - a paper feeding apparatus including:
    - a paper feed device comprising:
      - a paper loading board to load paper obliquely;
      - an abutting surface arranged in a lower part of the paper loading board, the abutting surface abuts a leading edge of the paper loaded on the paper loading board;
      - a feed roller abutting a surface of the paper to feed the paper to a predetermined direction sheet by sheet; and
      - a manual feed tray movable between an open position and a closed position;
    - a stopper movable between a lower position lower than the abutting surface and a higher position higher than the abutting surface; and
    - a stopper drive device which moves the stopper between the lower position and the higher position;
    - an image formation device which forms an image on the paper;
    - a paper transfer device transfers paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device;
    - a paper detection device arranged in the paper transfer device detects when paper is fed to the paper transfer device; and
    - a feed control device drives the paper feeding apparatus to feed the paper on the paper loading board to the paper transfer device when a command to select an automatic paper feed is externally inputted to select a paper feed from the paper loading board,

subsequently drives the paper transfer device to transfer the paper fed from the paper feeding apparatus to the image formation device when the paper detection device detects the presence of paper, and drives the paper transfer device to transfer paper inserted from the manual feed tray to the image formation device,

wherein the stopper contacts the leading edge of the paper and lifts up the leading edge of the paper as the stopper is moved toward the higher position, and

wherein the stopper drive device moves the stopper toward the lower position in response to the manual feed tray being at or moving to the open position.

10. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is in the open position for inserting paper; and

a first annunciation device operably connected to the image formation apparatus ~~prohibits apparatus that prohibits~~ the process of the feed control device and announces that paper is jammed within the image formation apparatus when a command to select an automatic paper feed is inputted, if the opening/closing detection device detects that the manual feed tray is not in the open position and the paper detection device detects the presence of paper.

11. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is in the open position for inserting paper; and

a first annunciation ~~device announces device that announces~~ a requirement for ~~a paper insertion of the paper~~ from the manual feed tray when a command to select a manual paper feed is externally inputted, if the opening/closing detection device detects that the

manual feed tray is in the open position to permit ~~the paper insertion, insertion of the paper,~~ and if the paper detection device detects that the paper has not been fed.

12. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an opening/closing detection device to detect whether the manual feed tray is in the open position to permit insertion of the paper; and

a command input device for inputting a feed initiation command, the feed initiation command initiates a paper feed from the manual feed tray; and

a first annunciation device to announce a requirement for an input of the feed initiation command when a command to select a manual paper feed is externally inputted, if the opening/closing detection device detects that the manual feed tray is in the open position to permit ~~the paper insertion, insertion of the paper,~~ and the paper detection device detects the presence of the paper, wherein the feed control device allows the paper transfer device to initiate a paper transfer when the feed initiation command is inputted from the command input device.

13. (Currently Amended) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a change detection device,

wherein a driving source which drives the paper transfer device is configured to execute a predetermined preprocess other than a paper transfer prior to an image formation when driving the paper transfer device in an opposite direction to a direction of the paper transfer; and

the feed control device executes the preprocess by driving the driving source in the opposite direction when the change detection device detects that a state of the manual feed

tray has changed from the closed position to the open position to permit ~~the paper insertion~~  
insertion of the paper.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a control program executable by a processor controlling the paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 4, the program comprising:

detecting a change in the open/closed position of the manual feed tray; and  
raising the stopper when the detection of the manual feed tray has changed from the open position to the closed position.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a control program executable by a processor controlling the image formation apparatus according to Claim 10, the program comprising:

detecting whether the manual feed tray is in the open position for inserting ~~the~~ paper; and

prohibiting the process of the feed control device and announcing that ~~the~~ paper is jammed within the image formation apparatus when selection of an automatic paper feed is inputted, if the detection of the manual feed tray is not in the open position and the presence of the paper is detected by the paper detection device.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a control program executable by a processor controlling the image formation apparatus according to Claim 11, the program comprising:

detecting whether the manual feed tray is in the open position for inserting ~~the~~ paper; and

announcing a requirement for a paper insertion from the manual feed tray when the selection of the manual paper feed is externally inputted, if the detection of the

manual feed tray is in the open position to permit insertion of the paper, and if the paper has not been fed.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a control program executable by a processor controlling the image formation apparatus according to Claim 12, the program comprising:

detecting whether the manual feed tray is in the open position to permit the paper insertion;insertion of the paper;

initiating a paper feed from the manual feed tray; and

announcing a requirement for an input of the feed initiation command when the selection of a manual paper feed is externally inputted, if the detection of the manual feed tray is in the open position to permit the paper insertion, insertion of the paper, and the presence of the paper is detected, detected by the paper detection device, and initiating at the paper transfer when the feed initiation command is inputted.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing thereon a control program executable by a processor controlling the image formation apparatus according to Claim 13, the program comprising:

executing a predetermined preprocess other than at the paper transfer prior to an image formation when driving the paper transfer device in an opposite direction to a direction of the paper transfer; and

executing the preprocess by driving the driving source in the opposite direction when detecting at the state of the manual feed tray has changed from the closed position to the open position to permit the paper insertion.insertion of the paper.

19. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper raises and lowers each time the paper is fed from the paper loading board.

20. (Previously Presented) The paper feeding apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the stopper drive device rotates to move the stopper vertically with respect to the abutting surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The image formation apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein the stopper drive device rotates to move the stopper vertically with respect to the abutting surface.